



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS BELARUS CRIMINAL ALIEN WHO BEAT VICTIM WITH BASEBALL BAT

CHICAGO—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today deported a 25-year-old citizen from Belarus who beat a man with a baseball bat in a parking lot for dating his ex-girlfriend.

Albert Minkevich was turned over to ICE in January upon his release from prison and remained in federal custody until this morning when he was deported to Belarus escorted by two government agents.

Minkevich encountered his ex-girlfriend and the victim in the parking lot of the Farm and Fleet store in Baraboo, Wis., in March 2004. He became enraged and began to beat the victim with a baseball bat. He also caused damage to the victim's car during the attack.



Minkevich was convicted in May of aggravated battery, mayhem and criminal damage to property in the Sauk County Wisconsin Circuit Court and sentenced to eight months incarceration and five years probation.

"The residents of Baraboo should breathe a little easier knowing this man is out of the country," said ICE Field Office Director Deborah Achim. "Aliens who commit crimes against innocent victims will be sought out, apprehended and removed from the U.S." Achim oversees ICE Detention and Removal Operations in a six-state area that includes: Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas and Missouri.

Minkevich entered the United States in June 1999 as an exchange visitor. He was granted conditional permanent resident status in 2001, but this status was revoked in 2003 after an investigation determined that he had committed marriage fraud to obtain immigration benefits.

Chicago ICE deported 6,077 criminal and illegal aliens living in the agency's Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Kansas operational area in fiscal year 2004, an increase of 24 percent over the previous year.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.